

Message Text

PAGE 01 USUN N 03097 071723Z

41

ACTION SS-25

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P R 071648Z SEP 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9281

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3097

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN KN KS CH PFOR

SUBJECT: KOREA IN 28TH GA: CHINA

REF: USUN 2984

1. PRC COUNSELOR CHOU NAN, WHO HAD TELEPHONED MISOFF ON ANOTHER MATTER, TOOK OPPORTUNITY SEPT 6 TO RENEW DIALOGUE ON KOREA ITEM, PICKING UP WHERE HE HAD LEFT OFF AUG 23. CONVERSATION, GOOD HUMORED THROUGHOUT, LASTED ABOUT TEN MINUTES. ALTHOUGH HE MAY HAVE BEEN AWARE OF 25-DELEGATION MEETING AT USUN ON PREVIOUS DAY, CHOU DID NOT MENTION THIS ; NOR DID HE REVEAL ANY KNOWLEDGE OF EXACT LANGUAGE OF DRAFT RESOLUTION DISCUSSED AT THAT MEETING,. IN THIS CONVERSATION, IN FACT, HE ONLY BRUSHED BY MEMBERSHIP ISSUE, DEVOTING HIMSELF INSTEAD TO UN FLAG/UNC ISSUE.

2. CHOU ASKED IF MISOFF (THAYER) HAD GIVEN ANY FURTHER THOUGHT TO CHOU'S EARLIER URGING THAT MISOFF LOOK AGAIN AT "SIMPLE" DEMAND EMBODIED IN LAST YEAR'S OPPOSITION RESOLUTION. MISOFF RESPONDED THAT HE INDEED HAD RE-STUDIED THAT LANGUAGE BUT ADDED, IN RESPONSE TO CHOU'S FURTHER QUESTION, THAT RESULT WAS SAME SINCE OUR CONCERNS AND REA
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03097 071723Z

SPONSIBILITIES REGARDING PENINSULA WERE SAME. CHOU REITERATED HOPE THAT FURTHER STUDY WOULD PRODUCE IDEAS FOR MEANS OF SOLVING ISSUE.

3. IN REPETITIVE AND CIRCULAR EXCHANGE THAT FOLLOWED (DURING WHICH WE BOTH STRESSED PERSONAL AND INFORMAL NATURE OF CONVERSATION), MISOFF INSISTED THAT LAST YEAR'S OPPOSITION RESOLUTION, NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT STUDIED, OFFERED NO REASSURANCE WHATSOEVER, TO US AND OTHER ROK ALLIES, THAT UN FLAG COULD BE REMOVED WHILE PRESERVING ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE SECURITY WHICH CLEARLY US AND UN RESPONSIBILITY. THUS, STUDY WAS FRUITLESS. CHOU AGAIN URGED MISOFF CONTINUE TO STUDY SO THAT MISOFF COULD HAVE "SOMETHING TO PROPOSE" MISOFF RESPONDED BY SAYING, WITH APOLOGY FOR BLUNTNESS, THAT HE PERSONALLY INTERPRETED SITUATION QUITE DIFFERENTLY. CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND UNC, WERE SERVING CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSE IN KOREA; WE NOT PROPOSING CHANGE; DPRK SUPPORTERS WERE ONES PROPOSING CHANGE; LOGIC OF SITUATION CALLED NOT FOR MISOFF TO HAVE "SOMETHING TO PROPOSE," BUT FOR CHOU, WHO ADVOCATING "SIMPLE" REMOVAL OF UN FLAG AND UNC, TO EXAMINE HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED WHILE PRESERVING ESSENTIAL ASPECTS, WHATEVER DONE ABOUT SYMBOLS, OF PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS; THEREFORE, AS PERSONAL MATTER, IT WOULD SEEM MORE LOGICAL FOR CHOU HIMSELF TO STUDY LANGUAGE, AS WELL AS SITUATION, AND HIMSELF MAKE PROPOSAL; PENDING THAT, WE WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO DISAGREE.

4. CHOU ACCEPTED THIS IN GOOD HUMOR, RESPONDING THAT "PERHAPS BOTH OF US" COULD GIVE MATTER FURTHER THOUGHT AND THAT WE SHOULD REMAIN IN TOUCH.

5. COMMENT: CHOU SEEMED IN THIS CONVERSATION, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, TO IDENTIFY PROBLEM IN TERMS OF "UN COMMAND" RATHER THAN OF "UN FLAG," WHICH HAD BEEN HIS PREFERRED SHORTHAND IN PREVIOUS TALK.

AS DEPT AWARE, WE ANTICIPATING BILATERAL WITH PRC MISSION, AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, WITHIN FEW DAYS. BILATERAL IS TO COVER 28TH GA ITEMS OF COMMON INTEREST.

IT IS POSSIBLE, BUT UNLIKELY, THAT CHOU DID NOT REPORT OUR PREVIOUS EXCHANGE. ASSUMING THAT HE DID REPORT, HE APPARENTLY HAS GO AHEAD TO KEEP PUSHING US. HIS PURPOSE, HOWEVER, MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 03097 071723Z

LIMITED TO SEEKING BETTER GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF TACTICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH CHINESE WILL BE OBLIGED TO BE ACTIVE IN 28TH GA, AND IT MAY ALSO REFLECT NATURAL PRC UNEASINESS OVER POSSIBILITY OF BEING (AS LAST YEAR) ON LOSING SIDE OF ISSUE. WHATEVER THE CASE, WE BELIEVE IT WISE TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH CHINESE HERE ON THIS ITEM.
BENNETT

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